

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Prior to the entry of this Amendment, claims 1-5, 7 and 9-46 were pending in this application. Claims 1, 19, 25, and 28 have been amended, claims 18, 20, 24, 27, and 29-46 have been canceled, and no claims have been added herein. Therefore, claims 1-5, 7 and 9-17, 19, 21-23, 25, 26, and 28 remain pending in this application. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of these claims for at least the reasons presented below.

#### **Allowable Subject Matter**

The Office Action indicates that claim 20 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As an initial matter, the Applicants thank the Examiner for performing a careful examination and for indicating the allowable subject matter of claim 20. Amendments have been made herein to incorporate allowable matter into each independent claim, *i.e.*, to rewrite the allowable claims in independent form.

More specifically, claim 1, upon which claims 2-5, 7, 9-17, and 19 depend, has been amended to include the recitations of allowable claim 20 and intervening claim 18 which correspondingly have been canceled herein. Similarly, claim 21, upon which claims 22 and 23 depend, claim 25, upon which claim 26 depends, and claim 28 have been amended to include recitations matching those of amended claim 1, *i.e.*, to include the recitations of claim 20 that have been indicated to be allowable. Thus, the Applicants submit that claims 21-23, 25, 26, and 28 are also now in condition for allowance. Other amendments presented herein have been made only to correct formal matters. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments and allowance of all currently pending claims.

**35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection, Burroughs in view of Shiigi**

The Office Action has rejected claims 1-5, 7, 9-14, 17, 21, 25, 26, 28, 30-35, 39, 44 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,341,289 of Burroughs *et al.* (hereinafter "Burroughs") in view of U. S. Patent Pub. 2003/0014442 A1 of Shiigi *et al.* (hereinafter "Shiigi"). The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been rendered moot by the amendments presented herein and described above. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

**35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection, Burroughs in view of Shiigi and in further view of Bachmann**

The Office Action has rejected Claims 15, 16 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burroughs in view Shiigi and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,085,188 of Bachmann *et al.* (hereinafter "Bachmann"). The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been rendered moot by the amendments presented herein and described above. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

**35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection, Burroughs in view of Shiigi and further in view of Mullins**

The Office Action has rejected claims 18, 19, 24, 27, 29, 36, 38, 40-43 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burroughs in view of Shiigi and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,999,956 of Ward Mullins (hereinafter "Mullins"). The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been rendered moot by the amendments presented herein and described above. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

Appl. No. 10/682,330

PATENT

Amdt. dated: October 30, 2007

Reply to Office Action of September 11, 2007

Amendment Under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure

Examining Group 2165

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

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